



STUDY GUIDE

COLLEGE MADE ME CONSERVATIVE

KEY TERMS: conservative political correctness indoctrinated
leftist limited government common sense

NOTE-TAKING COLUMN: Complete this section <i>during</i> the video. Include definitions and key terms.	CUE COLUMN: Complete this section <i>after</i> the video.
<p>How much did Ms. Stephens owe per year for her liberal arts degree?</p> <p>On what basis did Ms. Stephens choose the majors she studied?</p> <p>What truth did Ms. Stephens discover when she got her first job?</p>	<p>What prompted Ms. Stephens to transform from a liberal to a conservative?</p> <p>What did Ms. Stephens receive for her liberal arts education tuition?</p>

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Towards the beginning of the video, Ms. Stephens shares with us that, “Like everyone who cons themselves into attending a liberal arts college, I was captivated by the idea of changing the world. I would immerse myself in a diverse pool of academic thought, theory, and action. Well, it didn’t quite work out that way.” Why do you think that the college experience didn’t live up to Ms. Stephens’ expectations? Why do you think that leftists claim to value diversity, but only if that diversity is superficial, like race, rather than substantive, like intellectual perspective? Explain.
- Ms. Stephens goes on to explain that, “I thought I was there [in college] to expand my knowledge of the world; to debate the great ideas. I soon realized, however, that my professors had something else in mind. Invariably each class followed the same monotonous ritual: identify a problem – say racism – blow it up beyond all proportion, blame the problem on the white majority culture, and then offer an unworkable solution, usually involving the government.” Why do you think that academic leftists cop-out by blaming social issues on ‘white majority culture’ instead of on the real causes? Do you agree with academic leftists that the government can and should be the solution to most problems? Why or why not?
- Ms. Stephens then points out that, “Almost every speaker who came to campus was a leftist journalist, a leftist activist, or a leftist professor from another leftist school... Everywhere I turned I saw political correctness. At first, I just rolled with it. Then, I got annoyed. Then, it started to tick me off. I was being brainwashed. Indoctrinated. And I was paying for the privilege with borrowed money.” Why do you think that professors and academic institutions as a whole are allowed to get away with charging outrageous amounts of money for enacting political indoctrination? What specific factors do you think guided universities to change so drastically over the decades from valuing true free speech and intellectual diversity to now only valuing the narrow, progressive agenda?
- Later in the video, Ms. Stephens laments that, “I didn’t learn about taxes either, other than that the rich didn’t pay their ‘fair share.’ It was only after college, when I was lucky enough to get my first job, that I discovered the truth: the government takes away a lot of your money.” Why do you think that leftists have such disdain for the rich and tend to cry that the rich don’t pay their ‘fair share,’ considering that the rich often pay much more than the average person does? Do you agree with Ms. Stephens that the government ‘takes away a lot of your money? Why or why not?
- At the conclusion of the video, Ms. Stephens states, “I can spend my money much better than the politically correct stoners who are running the government can. So, I guess, in a roundabout way, I did get something of value out of my expensive liberal arts education after all. Common sense.” Like Ms. Stephens, do you think that you can spend your money better than the government can? Why or why not? What do you think Ms. Stephens means by ‘common sense?’ Explain.

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: President Obama Remarks

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Obama Thinks Students Should Stop Stifling Debate On Campus,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What does President Obama want, in terms of how college students react to speakers? What did President Obama state students should not be ‘coddled and protected’ from? Upon what did President Obama say college was, in part, about? Since what year have attempts to ‘uninvite’ speakers been increasing? Who is Geoffrey Stone, and what is his position? What does he theorize in terms of indoctrination?
- What message do you think President Obama was trying to convey in his remarks? Do you think that, like President Obama, listening to people you disagree with can help to test your own assumptions, sharpen your own beliefs, and possibly change your mind? Why or why not?
- Do you think that this article supports points made in the video? If no, why not? If yes, which ones and how so?



QUIZ

COLLEGE MADE ME CONSERVATIVE

1. How did Ms. Stephens decide to get degrees in film and media studies and political science?

- a. They had promising career opportunities.
- b. They were suggested by family members.
- c. She put a lot of research into choosing them.
- d. They were subjects she liked talking about.

2. Almost every speaker that came to Ms. Stephens college campus was which of the following:

- a. Leftist journalist
- b. Leftist activist
- c. Leftist professor
- d. All of the above.

3. Ms. Stephens took on tens of thousands of dollars of debt _____

- a. and learned how to manage it well
- b. but never spent a minute learning how to manage it
- c. and had a plan to repay it before she graduated
- d. but had wealthy parents who paid it for her

4. What value did Ms. Stephens get out of her liberal arts education?

- a. Job skills.
- b. A steady career.
- c. Common sense.
- d. Lifelong friends.

5. Ms. Stephens went to college and expanded her knowledge of the world and debated the great ideas.

- a. True
- b. False



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/obama-college-political-correctness_us_55f8431ee4b00e2cd5e80198

POLITICS

09/15/2015 02:29 pm ET | Updated Feb 02, 2017

Obama Thinks Students Should Stop Stifling Debate On Campus

He says they shouldn't be "coddled and protected from different points of view."

By Tyler Kingkade

President Barack Obama wants college students to hear the arguments of people they disagree with, not try to block them from speaking.

During a town hall appearance at North High School in Des Moines, Iowa, on Monday, Obama bemoaned what some critics call the "new political correctness" at colleges and universities.

"I've heard some college campuses where they don't want to have a guest speaker who is too conservative or they don't want to read a book if it has language that is offensive to African-Americans or somehow sends a demeaning signal towards women," Obama said. "I gotta tell you I don't agree with that either. I don't agree that you, when you become students at colleges, have to be coddled and protected from different points of view."

The president said that when he was in school, listening to people he disagreed with helped to test his own assumptions and sometimes led him to change his mind.

"Sometimes I realized maybe I've been too narrow-minded, maybe I didn't take this into account, maybe I should see this person's perspective," Obama said. "That's what college, in part, is all about."

In recent years, students at colleges traditionally considered liberal have protested the mere invitation of speakers they disagreed with or objected to the invited guest's organization. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a civil liberties group, said that attempts to "uninvite" speakers have increased since 2000.

"You shouldn't silence them by saying, 'You can't come because I'm too sensitive to hear what you have to say,'" Obama said in his town hall. "That's not the way we learn either."

Geoffrey Stone, a First Amendment scholar and a law professor at the University of Chicago, echoed those comments.

"Part of what a college education is for is to be real people, to be citizens — not to protect them from discomforts of life," Stone told The Huffington Post.

FIRE was pleased to hear Obama acknowledge an issue the group has tried to highlight, even as it says the U.S. Department of Education has expanded the kinds of speech that can constitute harassment that colleges are legally obligated to address.

“We’re very glad to see that President Obama shares our concerns about the danger of trigger warnings, speaker disinvitations, and campus censorship,” Robert Shibley, executive director of FIRE, told HuffPost in a statement Tuesday. “We hope that colleges across the country and federal agencies like the Department of Education take his words to heart when they’re crafting policies that affect free expression.”



Steve Pope via Getty Images

Stone said he’s noticed students in recent years seeking more policies to restrict speech they find offensive or insulting, a shift from the days when students wanted fewer rules.

“Prior generations of students in the last half-century or so came to college wanting to be treated as adults, pushing back at paternalistic rules and regulations that treated them as children,” Stone said. “Universities for the most part accommodated that.”

The professor theorized that students have been “indoctrinated” by their parents that they are “entitled to be safe and comfortable.”

“The consequence, I guess, of parents that are hovering all the time and telling everyone they’re the best,” Stone said.

Obama had originally been asked to respond to GOP presidential candidate Ben Carson’s proposal to cut federal funding to colleges that show “political bias.”

“I have no idea what that means, and I suspect he doesn’t either,” Obama said.